

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00603 241651Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /043 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7170

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, XA, MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN VIEW OF ZAIRE INVASION

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 593

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1. AFTER HASTY READING OF SUMMARY STATUS REPORT (REFTEL), MARUITANIAN FOREIGNMINISTER OULD MOUKNASS EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENSE CONCERN OVER KATANGA INVASION ANDIN PARTICULAR OVER IMPLICATIONS REVIVAL KATANGA WAR OF SECESSION HAS FOR SERIES OF SMALL, DEFENSELESS AFRICAN STATES WHICH HAVESIMILAR DISSIDENT MINORITY PROBLEMS. MOUKNASS NOTED THAT MAURITANIA HAS BEEN FIGHTING OFF ALGERIAN-SUPPORTEDFOREIGNINVADERS FOR OVER YEAR, AND DECLARED THAT SENEGAL, IVORY COAST AND OTHERS COULD EASILY BECOME VICTIMS OF INVASIONS BY GUINEA-SUPPORTED DISSIDENTS. FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDED WITHCOMMENT AND QUESTION: I AM AWARE USG HAS SENT TWO PLANE LOADS OF SUPPLIES TO ZAIRE, BUT WHAT AREBASIC INTENTIONS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT? IS YOUR GOVERNMENT SERIOUS IN ITS SUPPORT OF GOZ? IT IS GOING TO FACE UP TO RESPONSIBILITY SUCH A SITUATION IMPOSES ON A GREAT POWER?

2. NOTING USG HAD NOT YET MADE ANY PUBLIC DECLARATIONS
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ON ZAIRE ANDTHAT I HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS, I REPLIED THAT I COULD RESPOND IN ONLY MOST GENERAL TERMS. NONETHELESS I BELIEVED I COULD ASSURE MINISTER THAT USG VIEWED ZAIRE PROBLEM IN MOST SERIOUS LIGHT AND WASKEENLY AWARE OF AREA-WIDE IMPLICATIONS.

3. VOA ENGLISH NEWSCAST EVEING MARCH 23 BROADCAST

TAPE OF REMARKS SECRETARY MADE 2-3 DAYS AGO ON ZAIRE
BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. SECRETARY'S STATEMENT
THAT USG HAD BEEN WORKING INTENSIVELY BEHIND SCENES
WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS (AND SPECIFICALLY WITH NIGERIA)
TO ENCOURAGE AFRICAN MEDIATION EFFORT IS MADE-TO-ORDER
RESPONSE TO MOUKNASS QUERY. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT
DEPARTMENT WILL TRANSMIT FRENCH TRANSLATION OF
SECRETARY'S ZAIRE STATEMENT BY STATE TELEGRAM ASAP--
MOUKNASS IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN FROM KINSHASA TONIGHT,
MARCH 24-- RECALLING NOUAKCHOTT DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE
USIS WIRELESS FILE. VANCE DECLARATION PLUS STATE
64155 AND 65349 NOW IN HAND WILL PROVIDE FIRM BASIS
FOR FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION WITH GRIM FOREIGN MINISTER.

HANDY SIDE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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